



468 South Perry Street ♦ P. O. Box 300900 ♦ Montgomery, AL 36130-0900 ♦ (334) 242-3184  
www.preserveala.org

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Contact: Lee Anne Wofford, (334) 230-2659

## **CALHOUN COUNTY'S UNION GROVE CONGREGATIONAL CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission recently added Union Grove Congregational Cemetery, located in the Golden Springs community in Anniston, to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now three cemeteries in Calhoun County on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 237 cemeteries statewide.

The Union Grove Cemetery property was donated to Union Grove Congregational Church on August 19, 1890 by Joel Massey and his wife, Sarah Brooks. There was originally a small church building standing near the cemetery, but the building was destroyed, presumably by fire about 1900. AlaBenton Genealogical Society has identified all existing and identifiable gravesites in the cemetery and are spearheading an effort to preserve the site.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama's state agency for historic preservation.*

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